

FAMILY HISTORY

James Watson

(A few incidents in the life of my Grand Father on my Mothers side. - Minnie M. Lindsay Crook)

We have no definite information regarding his parents anymore than that they were good honest hard working people.

James Watson was born November the 11th, 1821 in Fifeshire Scotland. He received a common school education but when quite young he went to work in the coal pits, and continued to follow that vocation until he came to Utah. About 1845 he married Janet Campbell who proved to be a faithful loving wife all through the years to the time of his death.

Soon after their marriage they joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and he became a zealous advocate of all the doctrines of the Church. They got the spirit of gathering to Zion and in 1855 they left their home and friends in Bonnie Scotland and sailed for America on a sailing ship. Soon after leaving Liverpool their little daughter Agnes 3 years of age broke down with small pox which caused concernment among the passengers and crew of the ship. As everyone was afraid of the loathsome disease. The captain finally said she must be shut up in one of the small rooms so as not to expose the other passengers. Her father went in with her to care for her and a man by the name of William Willis went with him in case help was needed. The mother with the three other children with were left with the other passengers.. Little Agnes although she had quite a severe case was practically better when they reached New York.

They went to Pennsylvania and got work in the coal mines. While living at a place called Jessup they had a son born, August 11, 1856 They named him after the town Jessup. About this same time their oldest son Thomas was killed, he was run over by a coal car in the mine.

They moved from there to Illinois, while living there another daughter was born to them on the 24th of December 1859, In April 1861 the war between the North and South broke out. They sold everything that they could get along without and bought an outfit, an ox team and wagon and started for Utah. They crossed the plains in the William Asper Independent Company. Arrived in Salt Lake City near the end of September, had no great trouble on the way. After visiting a few days with friends in Salt Lake City they came on to Heber Where their old friend Thomas Nicol was living. While staying with these friends another daughter was born to them, 13 October 1861, they named her Christina. They decided to make their home in Heber so took up some land at the northeast corner of Heber and built a log cabin before winter set in. This was the first home they could call their own. By hard work grubbing sage, making fences and ditches he soon had quite a nice farm on which he made his living up to the time of his death.

For many years he was a faithful worker in the church and held the office of a high Priest. He was honest and upright in his dealings with his fellow men. He was a very kind and obliging neighbor. A very industrious hard working man. He did his full share in all public enterprise and building up the country. He was very fond of an argument on almost any subject, especially on religion. In connection with his dear old wife they raised a good sized family. All honored and respected citizens of the community. Uncle Jimmy as he was familiarly called was a naturally cheerful and sociable person and a very good neighbor and citizen in every sense of the word. Some years before his death his eye sight failed him and he became almost blind. It was hard work for him to get around to visit his friends. He died 18 February 1896. I desire to say that I received much good council and advice from Uncle Jimmie Watson for which I feel thankful and wish to give him credit.

Yours very affectionately - Uncle William Lindsay

FAMILY HISTORY

Janet Campbell Watson (A few incidents in the life of Janet Campbell, My Grand Mother on my Mothers side
Written by Uncle William Lindsay - Minnie M. Lindsay Crook)

Janet Campbell was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, 30 September 1825. Unfortunately we have no reliable information regarding her as she seldom spoke of them. The reason probably was that when she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints they felt that she had disgraced them. They would not even answer letters when she wrote to them. However she was married to James Watson before she Joined the church or probably she like many others would have been turned out of her parents home. This naturally was a great trial to her. She used to tell her childred that she had to work down in the coal mines when she was a young girl. It was the custom for girls to work in the mines at that time. It seems so dreadful to think that women ever had to go down in to the dirty coal mines to earn a living. She told how one day the mine caught on fire and that she and another girl were the last to be drawn up from the mine in a bucket. When Victoria became Queen of Great Britain she had a law passed prohibiting women from working in the mines. ~~XXX~~ For this reason Aunt Janet always had great love and respect for Queen Victoria

She was married to James Watson in 1845 and from that day until the day of his death she worked side by side with him sharing In all his joys and sorrows, ever willing and ready to do her part. Think of the terriable experience she had while crossing the ocean. Brother Watson had been shut up in a small cabin to care for Agnes who had developed small pox and she was alone among strangers caring for her other four children. At this time her 5 month old baby broke out with the dread desease and she dare not tell others as every one was so afraid of this dread desease, especially on ship board, With no help in the shape of medicine and not wishing to alarm others she kept the baby hid up as much as possible. It surly was a desperate condition to be placed in. They arrived safely in New York, there being no quarantine laws at that time they were allowed to land and continue on to their destination in Pennsylvania. Agnes gained her health back but the baby died soon after they arrived. Brother Watson got work in the coal mines but many times he could not get paid for his work so they saw hard times while in the States. They found people who had no sympathy with them because they were Mormons. They had many unpleasanthings to meet. They received a terrible shock when their oldest son Thomas was accidentally killed by being run over by a loaded coal car. She managed to bear up under all these trials and seldom, if ever made any complaints.

They had two children born while living in the Eastern States, Jessup and Sarah..

In 1861 they disposed of all their belongings, bought a yoke of oxen a yoke of cows, a wagon and out-fit for coming to Utah. As the war between the North and South had started. They were anxious to get away to Zion where they had started for when they left their native land. They reached Florence Nebraska the place where the start was usually made for crossing the plains. They joined the independent Company of William Asper and started on their weary journey of a thousand miles. She passed through all the trying experiences of sleeping out doors cooking over wood fires in the smoke and wind, dust and heat, traveling through Indian Country, being more or less in dread all the time. But not withstanding all their trials and troubles they had times of rejoicing, often sang the Song of Zion around the camp fire.

FAMILY HISTORY

Janet Campbell Watson Continued

They landed in Utah without any very serious misshaps and after visiting some of their friends and relatives in Salt Lake City they came to Heber where their friend Thomas Nicol was then living and where they received a kindly welcome into his little log cabin home. While there only two weeks after their arrival Mother Watson gave birth to a baby girl on the 13 October 1861. They named this baby Christina. Brother Watson with his son William who was then only 13 years of age went to work as quickly as possible to build a double log house before the winter set in. They finished it in good time and here they lived comfortably for many years. Even after this Janet had many sore trials to meet, even more than many people meet in a life time. She experienced all the incidents met by the early settlers in having to do without many of the necessities of life, for the reason that they could not be obtained at that time. On the 5 July 1873 she had another severe trial to pass through. Her son Jessup then a fine young man of 17 years, left his home hale and hearty and in a short time was carried home lifeless to his sorrow stricken Mother. He had been playing and scuffling with some of his boy friends and suddenly dropped dead. Their oldest daughter Margaret had married Joseph Thomas in 1867, they had a family of 11 children. When the youngest was 6 months old Joseph Thomas passed away and 2 weeks later Margaret Watson Thomas died, 16th of March, Leaving 9 orphans. This was another sad blow to Sister Watson. She and her husband did all they could for the children (grand). Sister Watson's Brothers & Sisters did all they could to help raise the children. Sarah Oaks and Aggie Lindsay were especially helpful at this time. In January 1896 her son William was accidentally killed in the mine at Park City, making three of her sons that had met their death very suddenly. This of course was another sever shock to poor Sister Watson as she was now getting well along in years but she bore her grief quietly and went about in her usual quiet uncomplaining way, still doing all she could to help those around her. This she had practiced doing all through her eventful life. When they came to Heber she had a bolt of sheeting she had brought with her from the States. She gave the greater part of this to those around her, most of it being used by people in burying their dead. Clothing of all kind was very hard to get in those days. The people generally shared what they had with each other. Just about a month after her son Williams' death her dear old companion, with whom she had lived in loving peace and harmony and had shared in all her joys and sorrows for over fifty years was suddenly taken ill and in just a few days passed away. This was on the 18 February 1896. This to her perhaps was the greatest of all her many trials. As in all her other trials though she had always had her dear James to comfort and console her and to share in her sorrows. Now she was left alone aged widow, her children were all married and gone from the home nest where she had so lovingly cared for them all. Of course she could not think to live in the old home. But her children were glad and anxious to take her to their homes where they could give the loving care she so richly deserved. She finally made her home with her daughter Aggie Lindsay where all that could be done to make her comfortable and Happy was done. She lived in quiet comfort for about three years. She passed from this life 15 February 1899 loved by all.

JAMES AND JANET CAMBELL WATSON

James Watson was born November 11, 1821, at Fifeshire, Scotland, and about 1845 married Janet Cambell in Fifeshire. They

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JANET CAMPBELL By William Lindsay

Her life was one of joys and sorrows
Many trials crossed her way,
From her early youthful childhood
Until death took her away.

But through her many trials
She never murmured nor complained
Ever striving to be useful
Seeking to ease others pain

A faithful wife and loving mother
Patient thoughtful always kind
One so utterly unselfish
Very seldom you would find

Such was Janet Campbell Watson
One of Utah's pioneers
A great reward was waiting for her
When she left this mortal sphere

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were the parents of nine children, Thomas, William, Margaret, Agnes, Jessup, Sarah, Christina, James and John. He died February 18, 1896, at Heber, and his wife died February 15, 1899, at Center.

James received a common school education, but at an early age he went to work in the coal mines, continuing in that vocation up to the time he left Scotland to come to America. Shortly after his marriage he and his wife joined the Church and became very zealous advocates of the doctrines of the LDS Church. They had a great desire to leave Scotland for the Church headquarters in Utah. In 1855, with their four children, they sailed for the United States from Liverpool. After landing in America they traveled to Pennsylvania, where James worked in the mines to help them on their journey West.

They moved farther West to Illinois, working again to help save for the long trip across the plains. In 1861, when the Civil War broke out, they left for Florence, Missouri, and joined the William Asper company for Salt Lake City.

Arriving in Utah, they visited with friends a few days and then came to Heber to the home of their old friend, Thomas Nicol, who received them gladly.

James took up land northeast of Heber, and with the help of his family and friends he built a good log cabin and moved in before winter. In time he cleared the land, raised good crops, got the fences and ditches all in good shape, and soon had a fine farm. A few years later he replaced the log cabin with a substantial sandstone home.

He was an earnest, faithful worker in the Church, holding the office of High Priest, and was considered strictly honest and honorable in his dealings with others.

Janet Cambell was born September 30, in Scotland. One day the mine caught afire 1825, in Fifeshire, Scotland.

As a girl, Janet worked in the coal mines and she was the last person to be drawn up from the mine, in a bucket.

When James and his wife heard the message of Mormonism they joined the Church, but were disowned by their families. They came to America in 1855 with four small children. Shortly after sailing, their baby, Agnes, was stricken with smallpox. James

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had to stay with her in the hold of the ship throughout the voyage, but she survived. Later a baby died in Pennsylvania, where the family stopped to work in the mines before proceeding to Utah. While in Pennsylvania their oldest son, Thomas, was killed by a coal car. After several years they arrived in Utah and settled in Heber.

Janet was a kind, unselfish person and shared whatever she had. She had carefully preserved a bolt of sheeting in the family's journey across the plains, but when she arrived in Heber and found many of the people hard-pressed for clothing, she gave most of it away.

She had a life of sorrow, as two more sons died after the family arrived in Heber. Her daughter Margaret and her husband, Joseph Thomas, then died of pneumonia, leaving their nine children to be cared for. Shortly thereafter her husband died. Through all her trials she maintained a cheerful attitude and never became bitter.

